



COMMUNITY BOARD ELEVEN

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN
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Nilsa Orama
Chair

Angel D. Mescaín
District Manager

November 4, 2021

Hon. Bill Perkins
New York City Council
163 West 125th Street, Room 729
New York, NY 10027

Re: Support for Street Co-naming of the Northeast Corner of East 128th Street and Park Avenue as “Rev. Allen James Way”

Dear Councilmember Perkins,

Community Board 11 is proud to support the co-naming of the northeast corner of East 128th Street and Park Avenue in honor on Reverend James T. Allen.

Reverend James Allen has profoundly impacted the lives of countless residents in East Harlem and beyond. After a decade long battle with addiction, Reverend Allen founded the Addicts Rehabilitation Center (ARC), one of the oldest, largest, and most successful intensive residential drug-free programs in New York. ARC serves the chronically homeless, the mentally impaired, people living with HIV/AIDS, veterans, and those with other special needs. In his tenure, Reverend Allen built six new buildings and renovated four buildings that produced over 900 units of affordable housing. He also started the ARC Gospel Choir to help encourage former addicts to stay clean. Rev. James Allen’s hard work not only inspired health and clean living, but also paved the way for other community-based organizations to continue his efforts in assisting those in need.

The enclosed street co-naming request includes 21 letters of support from neighboring businesses, faith-based organizations, local non-profits, and elected officials including: Lt. Governor Brian Benjamin, Assemblymember Inez Dickens, New Springfield Baptist Church, Association to Benefit Children, and Picture the Homeless. The request also includes over 300 petition signatures, over 100 of which are from residents that live within a two-block radius of the co-naming request.

We request that you support and carry the “Rev. James Allen Way” street co-naming through the New York City Council’s street co-naming process. Please feel free to contact me at 212-831-8929 should you have further questions.

Sincerely,

Nilsa Orama
Chair

cc: Hon. Robert Rodriguez, New York State Assembly (via email)
Hon. Brian Benjamin, Lieutenant Governor of New York (via email)
Hon. Gale A. Brewer, Manhattan Borough President (via email)
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, United States Congress (via email)
Jose Altamirano, Community Board 11 (via email)
Judith Febbraro, Community Board 11 (via email)
Candace Ballard (via email)